



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas
66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAWRENCE, KANSAS, WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Tania Atkins**, 27, Lawrence, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on December 1, 2003, before Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Melgren stated that Atkins admitted at her plea that on July 17, 2003, officers with the Lawrence Police Department executed a search warrant at her residence in Lawrence, Kansas, and found approximately 13.8 grams (approximately .49 ounce) of crack cocaine in the freezer, marijuana behind a picture in the living room, and marijuana on the coffee table in the living room. Atkins further admitted that she had been selling crack cocaine.

Atkins faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for February 23, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.